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MEDIA RELEASE



Unique residency opportunity for Indigenous Artists in Taiwan and Australia

Artback NT is privileged to announce that the inaugural 2018 Taiwan-Australia Residency Artists are Paiwan singer, Mei-Chuan Sang and NT dancer and choreographer, Rachael Wallis.

A collaboration between Artback NT and the Indigenous Peoples Cultural Development Centre Taiwan, the Taiwan-Australia Artist in Residence program is generously supported by the Northern Territory Government, Taiwan's Council of Indigenous Peoples and the Australian Office in Taipei.

The program presents a unique opportunity for cultural exchange between First Nations artists.

The opportunity will see Mei-Chuan Sang travel from Taiwan to the NT for six-weeks, while Rachael Wallis will spend six-weeks in Rinari, Southern Taiwan.

The exchange aims to promote the unique cultures and histories within Australia and Taiwan and provide audiences with contemporary representations of First Nations perspectives through the arts.

Mei-Chuan Sang is a renowned Paiwan singer and performer from southern Taiwan. She hopes her residency in the Northern Territory and work with Indigenous communities will allow her to share music as a basis to find common connections in art and culture.

Connecting people and place
through arts development and touring

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Artback NT is proudly sponsored by the Northern Territory Government and is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



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“Music is important to the Taiwan Indigenous Peoples, especially to the Paiwan tribe, who love to sing. To us, music and songs not only record our daily lifestyles and express emotions, but they also record our histories, beliefs and cultural identity”, she said.

Mei-Chuan will be an Artist in Residence in the Northern Territory during August - September 2018 and will spend time in Darwin and Alice Springs, with other locations still to be confirmed.

Rachael Wallis is one of the most versatile dancers in Australia. Covering both traditional and contemporary dance styles she has worked with leading Indigenous dance companies, performing regionally, nationally and internationally.

“This is an incredibly important opportunity for me as an artist. To have the time to go deep... and to respond to the inspiration around me will be amazing,” Rachael said.

Living in a small community in North-East Arnhem Land, where Yolngu history is passed down through story, song and dance as way of life, Rachael knows the importance of dance in culture and community. In Taiwan, she hopes to experience a different way of life, living with local people and exchanging dance skills and cultures.

“International First Nations connections remind us how important and vibrant it is to be a First Nations person – that we have a different way of life stemming from creation worth celebrating... It is also lovely to see people valuing culture. International connections strengthen and affirm culture,” she said.

On her return, Rachael plans to share this experience with others in her region by running workshops in communities locally and outreach programs in homelands, working towards performances at festivals or events. Rachael Wallis will be an Artist in Residence in Rinari, Southern Taiwan during June - July 2018.



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